

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said method comprising:

(1) scanning the said nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the said first memory block is the first memory block of the existing said file; and

(2) finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the said header of the said first memory block, if the existing said file comprises more memory blocks than the said first memory block.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising ~~the step of~~ repeating said finding step (2) until either all memory blocks comprising said file have been found or an error condition occurs.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said method comprising:

scanning the said nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined logical block;

for each said logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number;

testing the said magic number to determine whether the said logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the said logical block is a valid block, performing a

comparison of a file name encoded within the said block header with a specified file name to be opened;

testing a flag within the said block header ~~indicating~~ to determine whether the said logical block is the first block of the existing said ~~specified~~ file, if the said comparison produces a match; and

returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either the said comparison produces a match or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for opening a new file to be stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said method comprising:

scanning the said nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined-sized logical block;

for each said logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number;

testing the said magic number to determine whether the said logical block is a valid block or a free block; and if the said logical block is a free block, modifying its said block header to comprise a valid magic number, the name of the new file to be opened, and flags indicating whether the said logical block is either the first block or the last block of the new said file; and

returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either said testing step has identified a free block or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition.

13. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, the method comprising:
- scanning the said nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the said first memory block is the first memory block of the existing said file; and
 - finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the said header of the said first memory block, if the existing said file comprises more memory blocks than the said first memory block.
14. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for opening an existing file having a specified file name stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, the method comprising:
- scanning the said nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined logical block;
 - for each said logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number;
 - testing the said magic number to determine whether the said logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the said logical block is a valid block, performing a comparison of a file name encoded within the said block header with the a specified file name to be opened;

testing a flag within the said block header ~~indicating~~ to determine whether the said logical block is the first block of the said specified file, if the said comparison produces a match; and

returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either the said comparison produces a match or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition.

15. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for opening a new file to be stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, comprising:

scanning the said nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined logical block;

for each ~~said~~ logical block, reading a block header containing a magic number;

testing the said magic number to determine whether the said logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the said logical block is a free block, modifying its said block header to comprise a valid magic number, the name of the file to be opened, and flags indicating whether the said logical block is either the first block or the last block of said file; and

returning to said scanning step with the next logical block until either said testing step has identified a free block or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20. An apparatus for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said apparatus comprising:

means for scanning the nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the first memory block is the first memory block of the existing file; and

means for finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header of the first memory block, if the existing file comprises more than said first memory block.

21. (New) An apparatus for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said apparatus comprising:

scanning means for scanning said nonvolatile memory medium to find a first memory block containing a header indicating that the first memory block is the first memory block of the existing file; and

finding means for finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header of the first memory block, if the file comprises more than the first memory block, said finding means operating iteratively until either all memory blocks of which the existing file is comprised have been found or an error condition occurs.

22. (New) An apparatus for opening an existing file stored on a nonvolatile memory medium comprising:

scanning means for scanning the nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined logical block;

reading means for reading a block header containing a magic number for each logical block;

testing means for testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the logical block is a valid block, performing a comparison of a file name encoded within the block header with a specified file name to be opened; and

checking means for checking a flag within the block header to determine whether the logical block is the first block of the existing file, if the comparison performed by said testing means produces a match,

said scanning means operating iteratively on until either the comparison produces a match or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition.

23. (New) An Apparatus for opening a new file to be stored on a nonvolatile memory medium, said apparatus comprising:

scanning means for scanning the nonvolatile memory medium in sizes of one predetermined logical block;

reading means for reading a block header containing a magic number for each logical block;

testing means for testing the magic number to determine whether the logical block is a valid block or a free block, and if the logical block is a free block, modifying the block header to comprise a valid magic number, the name of the file to be opened, and flags indicating whether the logical block is either the first block or the last block of the new file,

said scanning means operating iteratively on next logical blocks until either the testing means has identified a free block or all the blocks have been tested, thereby indicating an error condition.

24. (New) A nonvolatile memory apparatus, said apparatus comprising:
- nonvolatile memory medium means for storing information in the form of a file;
- scanning means for scanning memory blocks of the nonvolatile memory medium means to find a first memory block of a selected file, the first memory block containing a header having an indicator that indicates that it is the first memory block of the selected file; and
- finding means for finding a next memory block using a next block pointer stored in the header for selected files having more than one memory block.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said finding means operates iteratively until either all memory blocks of the selected file have been found or an error condition occurs.